

AN  
*AUTHENTIC HISTORY*  
 and Description of the  
*Castle & Priory of Dudley.*  
 chiefly compiled from the Works of  
*LELAND, ERDESWICKE, PLOTT, GROSE &c.*  
*by J. Payton.*



"Ever and anon there falls"  
 "Huge heaps of heavy mould'ring walls"  
 "Yet time has seen, that lifts the low"  
 "And level lays the haughty brow"  
 "Has seen this broken Pile complete"  
 "Big with the Vanity of State"  
 "But transient is the smile of Fate"

*Dyer—*

Dudley Printed for the Author by J. Ramm,

1794.



TO THE  
RIGHT HONOURABLE WILLIAM  
LORD VISCOUNT DUDLEY AND WARD,

BARON OF BIRMINGHAM,  
RECORDER OF KIDDERMINSTER, &c.

MY LORD,

AS the POSSESSOR of the venerable RUINS  
to which this Work relates, there is a peculiar Propriety  
in dedicating it to you:—and the Permission with  
which I have been honoured to do so, added to the  
condescending manner in which your Lordship sup-  
plied me with some particulars contained in it, will  
ever render me,

MY LORD,

YOUR LORDSHIP'S MOST OBLIGED,

AND DEVOTED SERVANT,

J. PAYTON.

DUDLEY, September 10th, 1794.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA  
BY  
JAMES H. COOPER  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
AND  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH  
BY  
JAMES H. COOPER  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
AND  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

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## PREFACE.

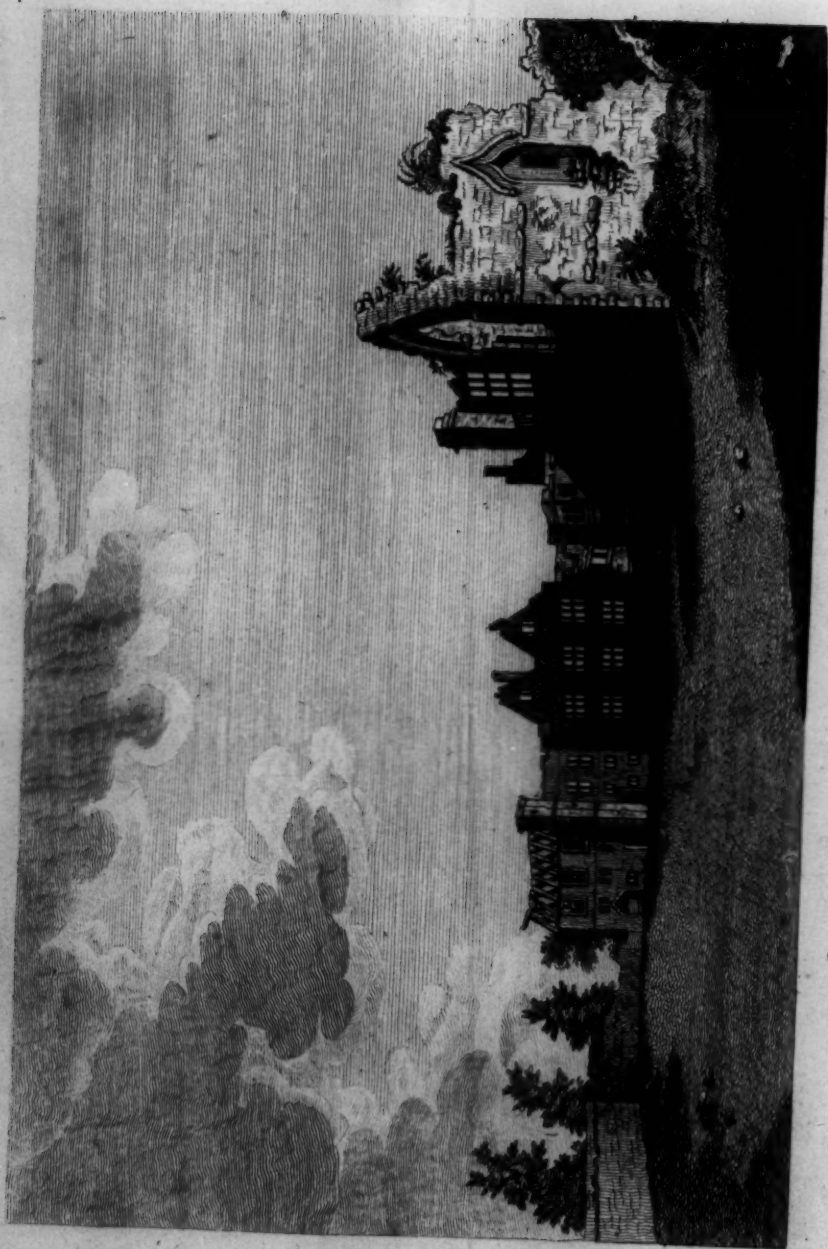
THE enquiries concerning the Castle and Priory of Dudley, generally made by Visitors to them; the obscurity in which the History was buried, and a desire to rescue it from the legendary tales of haunted Towers, subterraneous Passages, &c. which this Castle shares in common with most others, added to the request of several respectable Gentlemen in the Neighbourhood, first induced me to compile this History: in doing which I have spared no pains to procure the most authentic information; thinking it might afford some satisfaction to the many Strangers who visit the Ruins, and at the same time prove agreeable to those Inhabitants of the Town and Neighbourhood of Dudley, who had not an opportunity of procuring a similar account: the books from which this was chiefly compiled, being mostly very scarce

and expensive, and of course, the circulation of them very much confined.

Should this Work meet with approbation, as a plain and faithful narrative, my intentions will be fulfilled; and I shall feel myself happy in the idea that my time has not been wholly misapplied.

DUDLEY





*Engraved by J. G. Smith*  
**Interior VIEW of DUDLEY CASTLE, Taken in 1794.**



## DUDLEY CASTLE.

**T**HIS Castle, which gives name to the flourishing Town adjacent, was built by one *Dud*, *Dudo* or *Dodo*, a Saxon General, about the year 700; \* and was called *Dud's Ley* (i. e. *Home* or *Place*) from which its present name of *Dudley* is derived.

It is situated upon the confines of Worcestershire and Staffordshire. Leland says "Duddeley Castell is hard on the Borders of Wyrcestreshire, but ye Castelle self standith yn Stafordshir." Erdeswicke and Dr. Plott concur in the same opinion; and we find in 1238, when the boundaries of the two counties were settled, and Worcester was made a Bishoprick, that by the Pope's authority, and

\* A portrait of Dudd, in the possession of Lord Dudley, has the following Inscription, copied from an antique seal: "Dudd, Earle of Coventry, Sommerie and Arden, had by his wife, ye daughter of Edmund Ironside, King of England, Athelstan, who built the Castle of Dudley."

with the mutual consent of B. P. Stavenby, and William de Cantilupe, Bishop, the town and churches of Dudley were to belong to Worcester, and the Castle and Priory to Lichfield ; \* though they now pay land-tax, &c. to Worcester.

Erdeswicke describes the Castle as being in his time “ a goodly built house of an ancient building, and large, with great trenches about it hewn out of the solid Rock, and a fair chief Tower within it on the south side.” †

The Prospect from it is singularly beautiful, and so extensive, that on a clear day the eye may discern the counties of Worcester, Stafford, Derby, Leicester, Warwick, Salop, and Hereford, and part of Wales.

Nor is the Prospect more extensive than full of Variety, comprizing Hills and Dales, Woods and Villages, populous Towns, and

\* The handsome manner in which the Rev. Mr. Stebbing Shaw (who is on the eve of publishing the History of Staffordshire) communicated this and several other valuable papers, demands my most grateful acknowledgments.

† From a M.S. in the possession of Lord Dudley.  
buly

busy Seats of Manufacture: a scene that may justly be termed "of various view, warm and alive with human habitations."

From this Eminence 18 Churches are discernible, viz. those of Dudley, Birmingham, West-Bromwich, Walfall, Rushall, Wednesbury, Darlaston, Tipton, Bilstone, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, Sedgley, Brierly-Hill, Oldswinford and Pedmore; also the fine Obelisk and Castle at Hagley, the elegant Seat of Lord Westcote; Envil, the admired Seat of Lord Stamford; and some part of the woods at Himley, the spacious and beautiful Seat of the humane and noble Proprietor of these Ruins.

The stupendous Mountains of Malvern (though at the distance of about forty miles) bounding the horizon towards the south, are noble features in the scene; as are also those of Clent, Abberley, the Cleys, and the Wrekin;—

"Mountains, on whose barren breast

"The labouring clouds do often rest:"

These delight the eye, and fill the mind with sublime conceptions.

Of the latter Mountain (the Wrekin) Leland says, "The rootes of this Hill, standing by the left Rype of Severne, be not past a mile from Worcester. The Wrekin (by some called Mount Gilbert) is the highest ground of all the countrie thereabout, & standith as a Pharos, barren of wood. There is on the toppe of this Hill a delicate plaine ground bearing fine good Grasse, & in this plaine is a fayre fountaine."

The eminence upon which the Castle stands is a rock of Limestone, the sides of which were formerly so well covered with trees, as to obtain it the appellation of the "Castle in the Woods." Its appearance then,

"Embosom'd high in tufted trees,"

must have been beautiful and romantic. This appearance it is now likely to resume, Lord Dudley having it in contemplation to restore those sylvan ornaments of which it has been bereft by Violence and by Time; which will render the following account of it by Dr. Plott, in 1685, equally descriptive of it at a future period.

"Dudley



“Dudley Castle, whose magnificent ruins as well as habitable part (built on a lofty rock) notwithstanding the shrubs and trees all about it, are mounted so high above them all, as not only to afford a most wholesome air, but a delicate prospect over the country below it.”

The Mansion consisted of a variety of buildings, partly encompassing an area about an acre in size, and surrounded by an exterior wall, flanked with towers. The Keep, which stands on a considerable eminence in the South-west angle of the area, bears evident marks of great antiquity, and is probably the only part remaining that was built by Dodo, the original founder. The following beautiful lines, from the elegant pen of Dr. Booker, on his planting some Ivy round these towers, will perhaps survive their subject, and be read when of these Ruins “not a wreck is left behind.”

*“ Address to the Ivy Tree.*

“WIND, gentle Evergreen,” thy spreading arms  
Round *Dodo's* ancient Tow'rs; and, from the blast  
Of Winter, shield them with thy mantling charms,  
That they to Time's remotest morn may last.

Lodg'd

Lodg'd in thy leaves the Birds of various wing  
 Shall, unrestrain'd, their mossy mansions form,  
 And round each pond'ring Visitant shall sing,  
 Safe from the truant school-boy and the storm.  
 Spread, gentle *Evergreen!* thy branches kind  
 O'er *Dodo's* Castle---aweful in decay;  
 Let them around his loftiest Turrets wind,  
 And deck with sober green his ruins grey.—  
 —Ah! could I, thus, the wretched Poor and Old  
 (Shatter'd by Time and worn with cruel cares)  
 Shield with a Cov'ring from the piercing Cold,  
 And bless with comfort their declining years:  
 More sweet, fair *Evergreen!* the Task would be,  
 Than round these aged Tow'rs implanting thee."

Next in point of antiquity to the Keep,  
 appear to be the Chapel (of which two fine  
 gothic windows still remain) and the great  
 gateway, with the apartments over it. This  
 entrance appears to have been very strong,  
 the walls being nearly nine feet thick, hav-  
 ing a port-cullis at each end.

Under the Chapel is a large vault arched  
 over, which is commonly called the *Prison*.  
 That it has been used as such is highly proba-  
 ble; but it seems to have been originally  
 formed for a cellar.

Most

Most of the other Buildings seem to have been erected about the time of Henry the 8th, or that of Elizabeth.

In the Kitchen which stands on the east side, are two large chimnies; the fire-place in one of them measuring four yards and a half in width.

In the Civil Wars this Castle was a royal Garrison: In 1644 it stood a siege of three weeks, and was gallantly defended by Colonel Beaumont, till relieved upon the 11th of June by a detachment of Charles's forces sent from Worcester. The Parliamentary army left 100 men dead on the field: and two Majors of Foot, two Captains, three Lieutenants, with 50 common soldiers, were taken prisoners. The loss on the King's side was inconsiderable.

Oldmixon, in his History of England, thus differently relates this circumstance: " His Majesty being informed that the Earl of Denbigh, Colonel Mytton, and Sir Thomas Middleton, had besieged Dudley Castle, in Staffordshire, he sent the Lord Wilmot, with the Earl of Northampton, and the Earl of Cleaveland's Brigade of Horse, with

with 1000 Foot, to raise the siege. Wilmot charged the Parliament's Forlorn, under Mytton, with such fury, that his forces were all like to be cut off; and several officers advised Denby not to quit his trenches to relieve his friends, but there to abide the coming of the Royalists. The Earl who had sent out Mytton to meet them, resolved at all ventures to assist him, and drawing out his troops, led them on in person giving the Cavaliers so smart a charge, that he not only relieved his friends, but repulsed the King's Party."

Tradition says, that the battle was fought in a piece of ground on the east side of Cawney-hill.

Several cannon-balls, some of them thirty-two pounders, have been found at different times among the Ruins and in digging the Hill. One of them, a seven-pounder, was deposited by the Author, in the Museum of Mr. Crowne of Birmingham.

This Castle was one of the last which held out for the unfortunate Monarch, and was maintained for him till the 13th  
of



of May, 1646, when Colonel Levifon furrendered it to Sir William Brereton, the Parliamentary General.

For feveral years after this, the Caſtle was inhabited by the Lord Wards; the Plantations were kept in good order, and the park within the walls was well ſtocked with deer.

It afterwards ſerved for a retreat to a ſet of Coiners, who on the eve of St. James's fair, Tueſday July the 24th 1750, ſet fire to the buildings, but whether by accident or deſign is not known.\*

In the great Hall was an oak table 17 yards long and one broad, of one entire plank, which originally meaſured 25 yards, but being too long for the intended place, the ſuperfluous part was cut off and made a table for the Hall of Mr. Corbin, a neighbouring Gentleman. The thickneſs of the plank is not mentioned. The tree from which it was taken grew in the New Park at Dudley, and is ſaid to have contained upwards of 100 tons of timber.

\* It is remarkable that the learned and indefatigable Antiquary, Mr. Groſe, who viſited this place in 1774, ſhould treat this event as merely traditionary.

In

In the Lime-stone Quarries near this place, is found that rare fossil called by the workmen, the Dudley Locust. Linnæus, the celebrated Naturalist, supposes it to be a petrification of some species of *Monoculus*, which is at present unknown ; it is in general termed the *Marinus Pediculus*, though some authors call it *Anthropomorphites*, because the head bears some small resemblance to a Man's Face.

It is somewhat singular that it is now no where found alive, nor indeed in its petrified state, except about this place and (according to Linnæus) in some parts of Sweden.

The Lime Quarries also contain a great variety of other fossils and marine substances, particularly the *Cornu Ammonis*, *Astroites* or Star-Stones, Cockles, &c.\* These are frequently found in large masses, but are not deemed so valuable as the *Marini Pediculi*, or Sea-Lice.

Those persons who visit the Ruins, should by all means extend their walk a

\* The Public may be supplied with any of these articles, upon application to J. Payton, Dudley.

few hundred paces over the Rock to the north of them, when they will find themselves amply recompensed for their trouble, by a view of those wonderful works of Art, the Tunnel and the Lime Quarries: The former is 13 feet high and 9 wide, and extends a mile and three quarters, principally through a hard rock, and in some places upwards of 60 feet below the surface. This Work was begun and made navigable in about four years, and affords a striking proof of the vast effects of human industry and perseverance.

The stupendous Caverns where the lime-stone has been worked out, with the method of procuring the stone, are no less deserving the attention of the curious, who may there see this useful article brought from the bowels of the earth, and conveyed through the country by means of inland navigation, to serve the purpose of the husbandman as well as the architect.

In many parts about the Castle grows in great luxuriance, the Dulcamara, or Bella Donna, commonly called the Deadly Nightshade.

This

This account will not be improperly concluded with the following extract from a Poem, written by the author of the piece already inserted, and which the scene in question also gave birth to.

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“THE RUIN.

FAL'N from its rocky eminence sublime,  
Lies the huge Pile, which War's rude shock defied,  
A formless mass—the work of mighty Time,  
The Monument and Monitor of Pride.

Here loathed Vermin, in their murky cells,  
Pass, unmolested, their inglorious day;  
Here, wrapt in sleep, the Bat securely dwells,  
Or idly wings her ev'ning hour away.

Departed Grandeur!—cou'd these stones assume  
Historic pow'r to tell thy pristine fame,  
The torch of Truth shou'd thy dark reign illumine,  
And bright Description kindle from the flame.

Then each mute witness, hasting to decay,  
Might tell what scenes were whilom here display'd;  
What ancient Dames here sung th' heroic lay,  
Mov'd in the dance, or nightly masquerade:

What titled Warriors grac'd the splendid Ball,  
In all the pride of Chivalry and Show;  
What Trophies hung within the sounding Hall,  
The blood-stain'd Spoil of some illustrious Foe:

What

What am'rous vows, exprefs'd in courtly guife,  
The lift'ning Fair to wretchednefs have led ;  
What doughty champion of gigantic fize  
Sent the Defpoiler to the mighty Dead.

What rich Poffeffors fed the neighb'ring Poor ;  
What Tournaments they fought, and how they fell :  
—Thefe, with innum'rous tales and deeds of yore,  
The moss-grown Reliques of the Pile might tell.

But, fadly filent, they keep mouldering on,  
Shaken full oft by Ruin's iron hand ;  
And, when fome fleeting feafons more are gone,  
No wreck of Pride or Grandeur here fhall ftand.

Thus, worn with Age, muft thou, O Man ! become  
A WALKING RUIN, on Life's fhelving fhore,  
At laft to perifh in th' oblivious Tomb ;  
But fummon'd thence, thou fhalt decay no more.

Then, the ftupendous Fabrick of the World,  
The ftarry frame, the air, the earth, the fea,  
Shall, to chaotic Ruin, all be hurl'd,  
And wearied Time reft in Eternity."



THE  
G E N E A L O G Y  
OF THE  
POSSESSORS.

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THERE is a chasm in this account, from the building in 700 to 1066, when, according to Domesday Book, it was given by William the Conqueror to William Fitz-Auscult, who possessed 25 manors in this county, at which time Richard, Lord of Birmingham, held that manor by Knight's Service of the said William Fitz-Auscult, Lord of Dudley, and was obliged to pay rent, homage, suit, and service; to attend the Lord's court at Dudley every three weeks, and was liable to be called into the field at pleasure. Thus Birmingham, which is now a spirited and opulent town, of the first rank in the mercantile world, was formerly dependent upon Dudley Castle, which is *now* in Ruins.

Fulk

Fulk Paganell afterwards became possessed of a great part of Fitz-Ausculf's lands, and among the rest Dudley. He was succeeded by his son and heir Ralph Paganell. Dudley descended from Ralph to Gervase Paganell, his eldest son, who in the third of King Stephen, (1138) when the Empress Maud contended with that King for the crown, held this castle for the Empress.

In the reign of Henry II. Paganell resided here, and upon the marriage of the King's daughter, he certified his Knight's fees, de veteri feoffments, to be in number 50; and de novo 6 and a third part. Afterwards taking part with Prince Henry in an insurrection against his father, the King dismantled his Castle of Dudley.

In the 12th of Henry the II. (1166) Peter de Birmingham obtained from Paganell his Lord, 9 Knight's fees, which he held by military service. As a proof of the splendour with which the Barons lived in those days; this Peter, who was a man of great property, was a sewer or waiter at the table of Paganell. This Gervase built the Priory of Dudley, and married Isabel, daughter of Robert, Earl of

Essex, and widow of Simon St. Lize, Earl of Northampton ; but leaving no surviving male issue, Hawise, his daughter, became his heir : she married John de Somery, by which means Dudley came to Ralph de Somery, his son and heir, who, the 6th of John (1205) exchanged the manor of Wolverhampton with his sovereign, for the manors of Mere, Swinford, Bobbington, and Clent ; which manor of Wolverhampton the King afterwards gave to Hubert, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Ralph was succeeded by William, his son and heir, who by reason of his minority at his father's death, was in ward for his barony : he was called William Percivall de Somery, and died the 6th of Henry the Third, (1222). The wardship of his son, Nicholas de Somery, was committed to Ranulph, Earl of Chester. Nicholas died without issue, 13th of Henry Third (1229) and the inheritance of this barony and lands came to Roger de Somery, his uncle. In the 17th of Henry Third (1233) when it is stiled an honour, it was seized by the King, Roger de Somery having neglected or refused to appear before him, when summoned to receive the honour of knighthood.

The

The writ is preserved in Madox's history of the Exchequer; and in English runs thus: "because Roger de Somery has not appeared before the King, to be girded with a military girdle, the Sheriff of Worcestershire is hereby commanded to seize on the honour of Dudley, and all the lands of the said Roger in his jurisdiction, for the King's use; and to keep them so that nothing may be moved off without the King's permission.—Witness the King at Wenlock," &c.

About this time William of Birmingham, being very rich, neglected to ride to Dudley every three weeks, to perform suit and service at Somery's court, whereupon a contest ensued, to enforce the performance: but it was afterwards agreed between the contending parties, that William should attend the Lord's court only twice a year, i. e. at Easter and Michaelmas, and at such other times as Somery chose to command by special summons. During this period the Castle remained unfortified, and probably had been so, ever since it was dismantled by Henry the Second. In the 46th of Henry the Third (1262) Roger de Somery



wished to restore it to its former strength, and likewise his castle of Weleigh, in the county of Worcester ; but was not permitted to do so, without a special licence, which two years afterwards was granted by the King, in consideration of his adherence to him, when some of the Barons rebelled, and took up arms against him. Roger was afterwards taken prisoner by the Barons at Lewes, and died the first of Edward the First (1273) seized of the Barony of Dudley. His first wife was Nicola, one of the sisters and coheirs of Hugh de Albini, Earl of Arundel : by whom he had issue four daughters. His second wife was Amabill, daughter and heir of Robert de Chaucumbe, and widow of Gilbert de Segrave ; she bore him two sons, viz. Roger and John, and a daughter named Margaret, who married Ralph, Lord Bassett, of Drayton. The first-mentioned Roger de Somery was succeeded by Roger his son and heir, by Amabill, his second wife ; he died the 19th of Edward the First (1291) and was succeeded by Roger his son and heir, whose wardship, he being only twelve years of age, was committed to John St. John.

The



The last-mentioned Roger died without issue, and John his brother became his heir, who had not accomplished his full age the 28th of Edward First (1306). He received the order of knighthood the 34th of Edward First (1306) and died upon St. Thomas's day, 15th of Edward Second (1393) seized of the manors of Newport Paganel, Bradfield, Solyham, and Bastenden, in the county of Bucks; the manor of Handsworth, with the Park, in the county of Stafford, the manor of Warsop and Ekering, in the county of Nottingham; the hamlet of Bordesley, in the county of Warwick; the Castle and Town of Dudley, and chase of Pensnett. The manors of Sedgley, Swinford, Himley, Clent, Rowley, and Weleigh, in the county of Worcester; with lands in the forest of Kinfare, Prestwood, &c.

A large dower was reserved for his widow, and the rest of his estate was divided between his sisters and coheirs, Margaret, wife of John de Sutton, and Joan, wife of Thomas Bottetourt. Upon this partition, besides other manors, the Castle and Town of Dudley were assigned to Margaret, and by her transferred to John de Sutton, who was compelled by

that great favourite, Hugh le Despencer, to pass away to him this barony, with most of his manors in this county. But this grant being extorted from him, it was set aside in the beginning of the reign of Edward the Third.

Hutton, in his history of Birmingham, gives the following account of this transaction. "Hugh Spencer, the favourite of Edward the Second, procured the custody of Dudley Castle with all its appendages for his friend, William Lord Birmingham. Thus the family who had travelled from Birmingham to Dudley every three weeks to perform humble suit at the Lord's court, held that very court by royal appointment to receive the fealty of others. By the patent which constituted William keeper of Dudley Castle, he was obliged to account for the annual profits arising from that vast estate into the King's Exchequer, when, therefore, in 1334, he delivered in his accounts, the Barons refused to admit them, because the money was defective; but he had interest enough with the Crown to cause a mandamus to be issued,

fued, commanding the Barons to receive them."

The Suttons were a respectable family in Nottinghamshire, and on account of their owning Dudley Castle, one of them was summoned to Parliament by Henry Sixth. In the 19th of this King (1441) William de Birmingham is said to have held his manor of Birmingham of Sir John Sutton, Lord of Dudley, by military service; but instead of paying homage, fealty, &c. as his ancestors had done (which was very troublesome to the tenant, and brought only empty honour to the Lord) an agreement was entered into between the Lord and the tenant for money instead of homage. This Sir John Sutton added greatly to the honour and estate of his family, being one of steady principles, a good foldier and an excellent statesman. He carried the standard at the funeral of Henry Fifth, and was made a Knight in the second year of his successor. In the reign of Henry Sixth he was with Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, at the Castle of Ghifnes; was made Lieutenant of Ireland;

was

was one of the Lords of the King's council, and was sent with the Bishop of Chichester on an embassy to the Duke of Burgundy, to treat for a freedom of trade between the Flemings and the English. The 29th of Henry Sixth, (1451) being surpris'd by Richard, Duke of York, he was sent prisoner to Ludlow Castle; and in the 38th of the same Monarch, (1460) was severely wounded at the battle of Blore Heath, when Lord Audley was slain, and Margaret, Henry's Queen, was taken prisoner by the soldiers of Edward, commanded by the Earl of Salisbury.

For his steady adherence to his Sovereign, and in recompence for the losses he had sustained, he was made Knight of the Garter, and had 210l. per annum granted him, besides the stewardship of seven places in Wales, which he could execute by his deputy. Though in such great favour with Henry Sixth, his merit procured him the esteem of King Edward the Fourth, who in the first year of his reign, (1461) granted him a remission of all arrears due on account of his said stewardship, and presented



ſented him with a grant of 100 marks per annum out of the dutchy of Cornwall, and 100l. per annum out of the port of Southampton; and in the 16th year of his reign (1477) ſent him on an embaffy with William Earl of Arundel and others, to treat for the prorogation of the truce with the King of France. John, the grandſon and heir of this great man, obtained a grant from Richard the Third, to himſelf and his heirs male, of Darlaſton, Bentley, Tittesover, Hartwell, Packington, and Newton-in-the-Moors, all in the county of Stafford.

In the 24th of Henry Eighth (1533) the Caſtle, &c. was parted with by John Lord Dudley (ſaid to have been a very weak neceſſitous man) to John Dudley, afterwards Duke of Northumberland, ſon of Edmund Dudley, that inſtrument of extortion, uſed by Henry Eighth, to plunder his ſubjects. This Duke wiſhed to be thought a branch of the Dudley family, but Erdefwicke gives the following account of his claim to that honour. “The ſaid John, father of Edmund, was a carpenter,  
and

and indeed born in the town of Dudley, but not of the name, other than travelling for his living, and happened to be entertained at the abbey of Lewes, in Suffex, where (growing into favour with the Abbot) he was appointed carpenter for the house, and then married, and (after the manner the Monks used) was called John of Dudley; not because his name was so, but because he was born in Dudley Town. And having by his wife, this Edmund, who was taken into the house, and there brought up at school, and proving a to-wardly child and apt to learn, the Abbot having divers scholars room in the university, this Edmund was placed in one of them. And after the Abbot having suits in law, and finding this young scholar ingenious and wise, took him from the university and placed him at the Inns of Court, where he maintained him and used him as a solicitor to follow the suits of the house, which not only he did sufficiently and well, but also so studied the laws of the land, that he became very learned in them, and so was brought into the favour  
of

King Henry Seventh, whereby he was advanced in the manner as I have before spoken of."

The Duke, whilst in possession of this Castle, made great repairs and additions to the buildings; but opposing Queen Mary's accession to the crown, he suffered death as a traitor, and his estates were confiscated. Sir Edward Sutton, son of that Lord Dudley whom the Duke had unjustly deprived of his property, being at this time in favour with Queen Mary, she granted to him and his heirs, the manors of Harborne and Smethwick, the advowson of the church of Harborne; the tithes of Northfield and Sedgley; also the Lordships of Sedgley, Himley and Swinford; the parks of Ettingshall, Sedgley and Himley; the hays, forests, and chafes of Ashwood and Chaspel; Willingworth, with lands in Himley, Womborne, and Swindon; as also Dudley Castle, and the Parks belonging to it; all which lands came to the Crown by the attainder of the Duke; she also made him Lieutenant of Picardy for life. He died the 27th of Elizabeth, and was succeeded by his son

son Edward ; this Edward Sutton, Lord Dudley, died, leaving issue two sons, Edward and John. In the 13th of James the First, (1617) Sir Ferdinando Dudley, son and heir apparent of the said Edward Sutton, Lord Dudley, married Honor, daughter of Edward Seymour, Earl of Hartford, whose mother was Katherine, second daughter of Henry Grey, Marquis of Dorset, and Duke of Suffolk, by Frances, daughter of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, whose mother was Mary, daughter of King Henry the Seventh, and Queen Dowager of France. Sir Ferdinando died in his father's life-time, leaving issue one daughter, named Frances.

The 4th of Charles First (1629) Edward Lord Dudley gave Frances his granddaughter and heir, in marriage to Humble Ward, Esq; son and heir of William Ward, Esq; a wealthy goldsmith, and jeweller to the queen of Charles the First. Upon the death of her grandfather, which happened in the 19th of Charles First (1643) Frances became Baroness of Dudley in her own right; and the 23d of March,



March, 1643, her husband, Humble Ward, was created a Baron, by the title of Lord Ward, Baron of Birmingham.

The part taken by Humble Lord Ward, in these times of civil dissention, seemed to have made him liable to some inconvenience from the victorious party; as among Mr. Astle's collections for this county, there is a certificate from the Privy Council to the Lord Protector, certifying the truth of a petition presented by Humble Ward, which petition the Protector had referred to them. They likewise add, that they conceive the said Mr. Ward to be an object of his Highness's grace and favour, held forth in his declaration. This paper is dated July 15th, 1656, and signed by ten members.

Humble, Lord Ward, died in 1670, leaving issue four sons, viz. Edward, John, Humble, and William; and three daughters, Honor, Frances, and Theodosia. Edward, the eldest son, married Frances, daughter of Sir William Brereton, of Hanford, in Cheshire, by whom he had four sons, John, Humble, William, and Fer-

Ferdinando ; and two daughters, Frances and Catherine. John, Humble, and Ferdinando, died without issue ; William, the third son, married Frances, the daughter of William Dilke, Esq; of Maxstock-Castle, and died in the life-time of his father, leaving issue three sons and one daughter, viz. John, Edward, William, and Frances. John died in his minority ; Edward married Diana, only daughter of Thomas Howard, Esq; of Ashted, in Surrey, and died in March, 1704, leaving his lady pregnant, who, on the 17th of June, was delivered of a son, Edward, Lord Dudley and Ward : he died unmarried September 6, 1731. Upon his death the title and estate descended to the aforesaid William, his uncle, who died unmarried, May 10, 1740. The male issue having now failed, he was succeeded by Frances, his sister, married to William Lee, Esq; of the Grange, in the county of Salop ; whose son Ferdinando was the last Lord Dudley of that branch, and died unmarried. Upon the death of the said Ferdinando, the Barony of Ward devolved

volved to the male heir of the first Lord Ward, whose descendent John, the 3d of George Third, April 21, 1763, was created Viscount Dudley and Ward, of Dudley. He died the 14th of George Third (1774) leaving issue by his first wife, (the daughter of Charles Bouchier, Esq;) a son, named John, who succeeded to his titles and estates: and by his second wife, Mary, daughter of — Carver, Esq; one Son, William. John, Lord Dudley and Ward, died the 23d of George Third, (1787) and was succeeded by William his brother, the present Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward, with whom it is hoped the title and estates may long continue: his Lordship married Miss Julia Bosville, daughter of Godfrey Bosville, Esq; of Gunthwaite, in Yorkshire; by whom he has one son, John William, a most promising youth, now about 13 years of age.

## DUDLEY PRIORY.

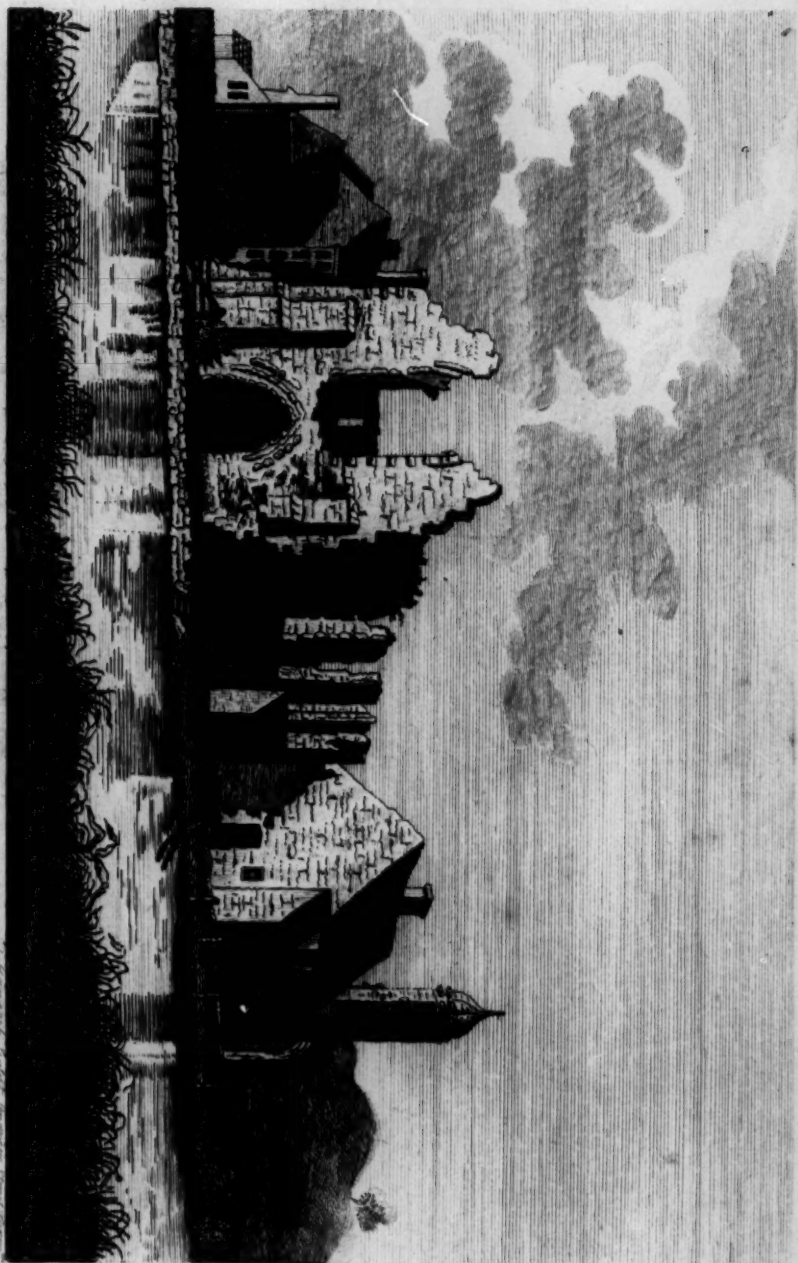
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"Lo, desolate the seat of ancient Piety.—  
The mould'ring walls,—th' unjointed stones, confess  
The iron tooth of Time; the half-sunk arch,  
The weight of whelming years——  
Reflected from the pure sky-tinctur'd wave,  
A sacred solitary scene it forms."

---

**T**HIS Priory, which stands at a small distance west of Dudley Castle, was founded about the 21st of Henry the Second (1161) by Gervase Paniell, or Pagnell, Lord of this manor, and a man of very great possessions in these parts. The Priory was dedicated to St. James, and filled with Cluniac Monks from Wenlock, in Shropshire, to which it was deemed a cell. The following is an old translated copy of the charter: "Know all men present and to come, that I Gervas Paniell, considering the purpose of Ralph Paniell my father,





VIEW OF DUDLEY PRIORY, Taken in 1793.



father, who intended in his life-time to found a Convent of religious persons at Dudley, especially for his soule and other my anncestors, and for my own soule, and the soule of Ifabele my wife, and of Robert my son, and of all mine; to fulfile my father's purpose: Therefore I give and grant, and by this charter do confirme in perpetuale claims to God and St. James, of Dudley, and to St. Milburge, of Wenlocke, and to the Monks serving God at Dudley, all the lands in which the aforesaid church of St. James is situated and limited by certaine bounds. I give also to the said monks of Dudley, the church of St. Edmund and of St. Thomas, of Dudley, and the church of Norfield, and the church of Sedgley, and the church of Iggprime, with all their appurtenant liberties. Moreover I give and grant, to them the church of Bradfield, after the decease of John the parson, with all its appurtenances. I also give to them the half hyde in Church-hull, and the other part of the towne, which St. Agnis gave to the said church of St. James, of Dudley, with her body. I have granted to be given, with its appurtenances, all which is of my ffee; and if there

be any of my tenants, be he knight, or what condition soever, that will grant any thing of his own right to the monks of St. James, I do ratify it, be it never so much, so that nether I nor my heirs may lose the services that belong to us for the same. And in what pastures soever my own cattle shall feed, there shall the cattle of the monks of Dudley feed without contradiction, excepting in my park. I do also grant unto them pausturage for their own hoggs, and the hoggs of their tenants, throughout my fforest, residing within my limits. I also give to them the tithe of my bread, venison, and fish, so long as I shall reside at Dudley or in Arden; I also for their own building, and other their easements, all necessities by the oversight of my seuer, unless in my haies and parkes. The liberties also which I can give, I freely give unto them, with sock and tole, and tack and tem: nevertheless the prior of Wenlock shall have power to place in the Monastery of St. James, of Dudley, in the presence of the monks, there to serve God, such brethren as he will, and are at his disposal; and he shall constitute over them a prior out of his own monks,  
by



by their consent, and assent of me and my heirs ; and if he ought to be removed, it shall be with the consent of me and my heirs, and the prior of Wenlock. And when the afore-said house of Dudley can support a convent, the prior of Wenlock, with the consent of me or my heirs, shall constitute a convent.

“ This grant I have made, constituted, and confirmed, and my own hand have offered upon the alter of St. Milburge, of Wenlock, in the presence of the convent, and likewise upon the alter of St. James, at Dudley, in the presence of the monks of that place, these being witnesses :—Isabelle the countess, my wife, and Robert Paniell my son ; William the son of Giwy, and William the son of Peter ; Adam the priest of Aston, Allen the sewer, Roger of Hagley, Hugh the clerk of Bridge, Ralph of Somery, Richard the son of William, the son of Guy ; Walter the son of Thomas Osbert, of Rushall, and many others ; Warner of Wilybee, Roger the sewer, Hammond of Reeve, Roger Wilcome, Roger Friend, Walter Pleasant, Robert de Chalmes, Roger Barret, and Thomas Coocke.”

In the first year of Richard First (1190) Pope Lucius, by his bull, ordained that the rules of the order of Clugni should be for ever observed in this priory, and that all its possessions should remain undiminished : these the superstition of the times had rendered valuable, it being no uncommon thing in those days for men of large possessions to beggar themselves and their posterity, by endowing monasteries, or settling their lands upon a church, to obtain the prayers and masses of the religious. Amongst the endowments of this Priory we find, in the said bull, “ the church of St. James, and the chapels of St. Edmund and St. Thomas, of Dudley ; the church of Segelle, with its appurtenances ; the church of Northfield, with the chapel of Coston ; the church of Ingle, with its appurtenances ; the church of Bratefelde, with the chapel of Englefield, all of the gift of Gervase Pagnell ; the church of Womborne, with the chapel of Trefel, and other dependencies, the gift of Guido de Offeni ; the church of Seille, in Leicestershire, with its appendages, the gift of Ralph de Seille ; the town of Churchill with its dependencies, the gift of Agnes

Agnes de Someri ; the town of Saredun, with its appendices, the gift of Osbert de Kenefara ; one rood of land in the town of Wolyntone, the gift of Robert de Chan-deu ; and the lands of Igepenne, the benefaction of John Mansell.

Pope Lucius likewise ordained, that this Priory should be a place of sepulture for all persons who might desire to be interred here, persons interdicted or excommunicated only excepted, saving the rights of those churches from which the said bodies might be taken. Also that in case of a general interdiction of the kingdom, the monks of this Priory, may privately, the doors being shut, and without sound of bell, perform divine service in a low voice, all interdicted or excommunicated persons being first put forth. He moreover prohibited all persons from taking tithes for the fallow and other lands, cultivated by them, or at their expence, for the maintenance of their house, or for food for their cattle, and authorised them to elect proper persons to serve the churches belonging to them who were to be pre-

sented to the bishop, to whom they were to be answerable for the souls committed to their charge, as they were to the monks of this house for the temporals ; and likewise enacted, that they might receive and keep clerks and laics flying to them ; and that no one who had made profession of their rule, should leave the house, unless for one more rigid ; nor was such person to be received by any other house without letters of testimony from this community. He also further directed that all ancient and laudable customs should be preserved in their church, and all persons were forbidden under the highest spiritual penalty to invade their privileges and liberties.

Roger, bishop of Coventry, granted forty days indulgence of an enjoined penance, to all such as being truly contrite, and having confessed and communicated, should say in the conventual church of Dudley, where Roger de Someri was buried, one Pater-noster and one Ave for the soul of the said Roger de Someri, and all the faithful departed. Pope Boniface the Eighth, in 1300, by his bull, granted the like



like indulgence, the diocesan concurring therein.

The 26th of Henry Eighth, the estates of this Priory were valued in the whole at 36l. 3s. per annum ; and at 33l. 1s. 4d. clear.

It was granted as a parcel of Wenlock, 32d of Henry Eighth, to Sir John Dudley, and afterwards by Queen Mary, to Sir Edward Sutton, Lord Dudley, whose family appears to have had the patronage of it.

Erdeswicke, in his history of Staffordshire, thus describes the state of this Priory in his time, although it did not, as he allows, belong to the county of which he was treating.

“ Dudley Castle stands within the manor of Sedgley, in the very confines of Staffordshire, and so near Worcester-shire, that the town of Dudley (whereof the Castle is called) standing within a stone’s cast of the Castle, is in Worcester-shire ; and so I take it is the Priory also, which Priory was at first founded, as I think, by Willielmus filius Aufculfi, or his son.

“ In



“ In the church of the same Priory were  
 “ divers goodly monuments, of the So-  
 “ merys and Suttons, and especially one  
 “ being cross-legged, and a very old one ;  
 “ which, as it was a very goodly one for  
 “ the workmanship, so it was much more  
 “ strange for the stature of the person bu-  
 “ ried ; for the picture which was laid  
 “ over him, I took the measure of, and  
 “ found it to be full eight foot long ; nei-  
 “ ther was the person lesser of stature, for  
 “ the coffin wherein the charnel was laid,  
 “ being of free stone, and hewed hollow,  
 “ answerable to the proportion of a man :  
 “ the hollow was also eight foot, so that  
 “ the body could be no less ; for if it had,  
 “ it could not with conveniency have  
 “ been layed in it.\* Writing I could  
 “ see none, nor any other matter whereby  
 “ I might discern whose it was, until  
 “ seeking something narrowly, I found  
 “ under the arch of the Monument, the  
 “ gold fresh, wherewith no doubt it had

\* The remains of this remarkable coffin, after being  
 converted to the ignoble purpose of an arch for a drain,  
 were lately removed, and set up within the walls of the  
 Priory Church.

“ been

“ been wholly gilt over, and in the gold  
 “ an hinder leg and a piece of a tayle of  
 “ a blew lion, which also a man might dis-  
 “ cover to be passant, and that by the  
 “ space of place it was contained in, there  
 “ must necessarily be two lions, otherwise  
 “ the leg and tayle must proportionably  
 “ have been much bigger and larger than  
 “ they were, and otherwise placed; so  
 “ that thereby you may perceive it was a  
 “ Somery, and as I take it, the first foun-  
 “ der of this Priory. Divers other Mo-  
 “ numents there were, one other also  
 “ cross-legged, but much slenderer than  
 “ this other was, and also shorter. Ano-  
 “ ther newer, which I take to be for some  
 “ of the Suttons, since they were Lords of  
 “ Dudley; but great pity it was, me-  
 “ thought, to see both the Church and the  
 “ Monuments so defaced as they were;  
 “ and so I told my Lord; and that I mar-  
 “ vell’d that either he or his ancestors  
 “ would suffer it; and he answered me  
 “ that it was done while the Duke was  
 “ owner of it, so that the fault was neither  
 “ in his ancestors nor him.

“ Into

“ Into one of the churches is removed  
 “ out of the Priory, a goodly monument of  
 “ one of the Suttons, Lord Dudley ; which  
 “ I take to be for him that was first cre-  
 “ ated Lord Dudley of that House, in  
 “ Henry the 6th’s time, for that the pic-  
 “ ture lieth in the order of the Garter,  
 “ and so was the first Sutton, which was  
 “ created Lord Dudley.”

Time and avarice have destroyed the  
 very ruins of these Monuments, of which  
 no vestige now remains, excepting a few  
 coats of arms, which have been found at  
 different times among the ruins, and are  
 now built up in the front of the princi-  
 pal dwelling-house.

The walls of the conventual church are  
 yet standing, and from their solidity ap-  
 pear likely to retain their station many  
 years longer : this church appears to have  
 been ornamented with

“ Storied windows, richly dight,  
 “ Casting a dim, religious light.”

Here all is gloom and melancholy ! and  
 the contemplative philosopher, wandering  
 among

among these venerable relics of antiquity, may exclaim with Webster, in his *Duchefs of Malfey*,

“ I doe love these ancient Ruines ;

“ We never tread upon them but we set

“ Our foote upon some rev'rend Historie.”

The beautiful gothic window on the east side of the building is worthy of attention. It appears to have been richly ornamented, and has a niche and canopy for an image on one side of it.

To the east and west of the ruins, are large pools of water, and a little to the north are traces of several others. One of them, consisting of some acres (called *the Castle Pool*) must have been a fine expanse of water ; and was, till within these few years, well stored with Fish, particularly Pike, which have been taken upwards of twenty pounds in weight. It was also the resort of abundance of birds of the aquatic tribe ;—but the diversion of the angler and the sportsman are there at an end : for, what was once water is now dry land ! and cattle are seen feeding, where inhabitants

bitants of another element took their pastime.

Several of the offices are now patched up into dwellings ; and in 1794 a steam-mill was erected upon a part of the ruins ! in sinking the foundation for which a great number of human bones were dug up ; and, among several others, a skeleton was found almost entire, of an uncommon size. According to the account of the workmen employed in this sacrilegious business, its dimensions were equal to the representation mentioned by Erdeswicke, in page 42 of this *work* ; which (with a due sense of Gratitude for the assistance he has received in it, as also for the flattering Encouragement of a generous Public) the Editor here brings to a conclusion.

THE END.



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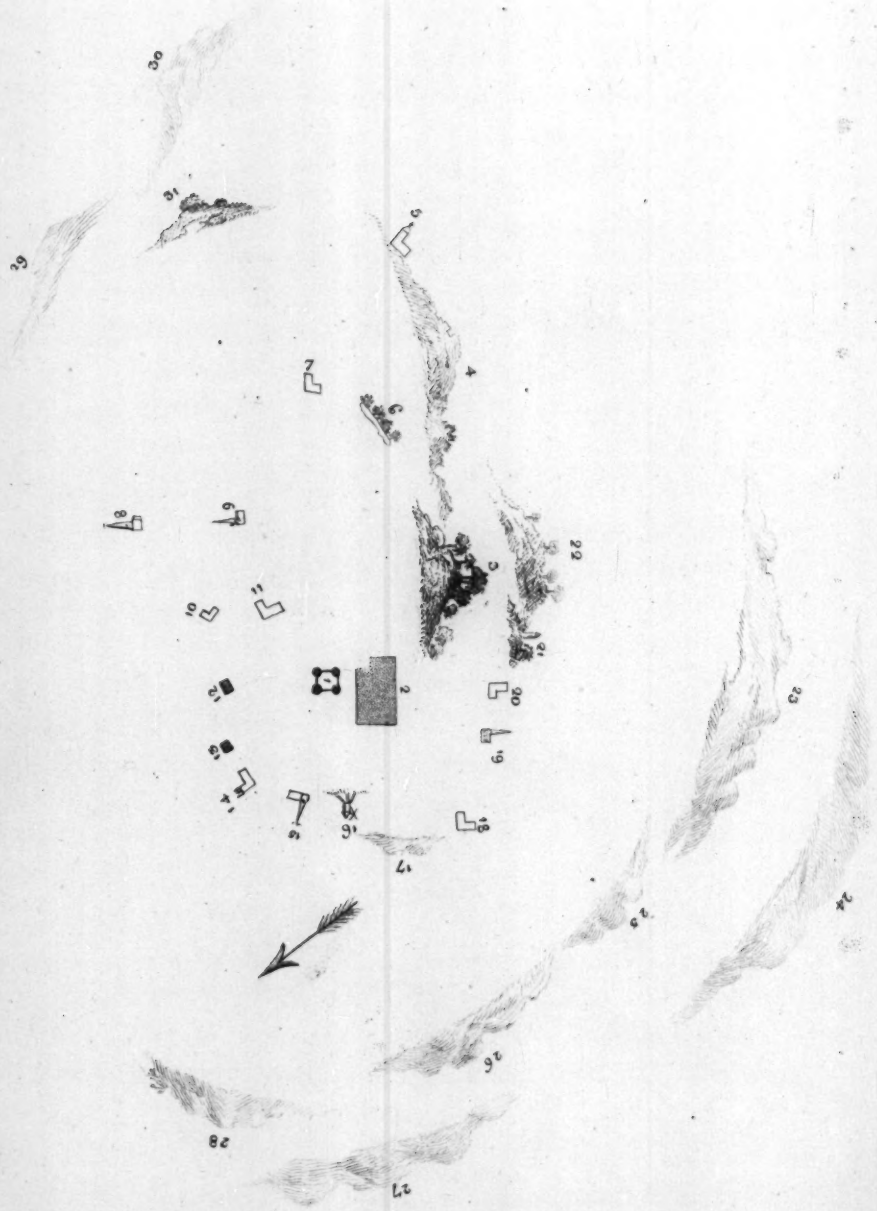
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TAYLOR

*Explanation of the Engraved PLAN.*

- |                                           |                                              |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1 The Tower                               | 18 Brierly Hill                              |
| 2 Dudley                                  | 19 Old-swinford                              |
| 3 Cawney Hill                             | 20 Pedmore                                   |
| 4 Okeham                                  | 21 Obelisk at Hagley                         |
| 5 Birmingham                              | 22 Clent Hill                                |
| 6 Sandwell, the Seat of<br>Lord Dartmouth | 23 Malvern                                   |
| 7 West-Bromwich                           | 24 Herefordshire, and part<br>of South-Wales |
| 8 Walfall                                 | 25 Abberley                                  |
| 9 Wednesbury                              | 26 The Cley Hills                            |
| 10 Darlaston                              | 27 Part of North-Wales                       |
| 11 Tipton                                 | 28 The Wrekin                                |
| 12 Bilston                                | 29 Hills in Derbyshire                       |
| 13 Wednesfield                            | 30 Barndon-Hill in Leicef-<br>tershire       |
| 14 Wolverhampton                          | 31 Bar-Beacon                                |
| 15 Sedgley                                |                                              |
| 16 Gornall                                |                                              |
| 17 Envil, the Seat of Lord<br>Stamford    |                                              |



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